

Honoring All Who Served

THIS MONTH WE REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE THE VETERANS WHO ANSWERED OUR NATION'S CALL TO DUTY IN THE QUEST FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

SENATOR KAHN SUPPORTS NEW DIVESTITURE LAWS TO HELP FIGHT TERROR

The state of Michigan is taking action to help our servicemen and women combat terror. Under Senate-led legislation now enacted into law, certain Michigan governmental entities are prohibited from investing their money in public companies actively doing business with terrorist countries, including Iran, Sudan, Syria, North Korea and Cuba. These entities are also required to divest any current investments that they have in such companies. I sponsored Senate Resolution 122 as part of the package.

The new laws also require the Michigan Department of Treasury to post the names of companies conducting business with terrorist countries on a public website.

At least 16 other states have enacted similar divestment measures and 31 other states are considering such legislation. Michigan is at the forefront with the nation's most comprehensive divestiture laws.

Michigan invests at least \$60 billion from various state funds, such as state retirement systems and the Veterans Trust Fund. It is simply unacceptable to invest these public dollars in companies that do business with state sponsors of terror.



ROGER KAHN, M.D. OUR STATE SENATOR



ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

TELEPHONE:

Toll-Free (866) 305.2132

E-MAIL:

senrkahn@senate.michigan.gov

WEBSITE:

www.SenatorRogerKahn.com

FUNDING FOR VETERANS SERVICES BOOSTED

More than a dozen Veterans Service Organizations will see a three percent funding increase this year, thanks to passage of the 2009 Fiscal Year Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs budget.

This new \$183 million budget increased funding and adopted the Senate recommendation to offer incentives to all counties to fund at least one full-time veterans counselor. While many vets look to the private, non-profit service organizations for help in obtaining federal veterans benefits, they contact their county for assistance regarding benefits and services available at the local level.

Along with funding Michigan's two veterans' homes, the budget includes \$53 million in capital outlay projects, including armory repairs and a major urban terrain project at Camp Grayling.

Despite these tough economic times, I am glad we were able to help our veterans. You can view the entire budget bill, Public Act 214 of 2008, at www.legislature.mi.gov.

KAHN SUPPORTS AID FOR VETS' ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A sizable number of our veterans are self-employed. I supported legislation to assist Michigan's military veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan in pursuing business opportunities.

Senate Bills 732-734 would establish a "Michigan Patriot Business" designation for companies with at least a 50 percent ownership by an active service member or veteran of the Iraq or Afghanistan wars. Companies could also get business development assistance and help in securing government contracts under the legislation. The bills await action in the House.

Veterans interested in starting or expanding a business can also find information as well as links to federal contracting opportunities at a federal website, www.vetbiz.gov.





State Senator
Roger Kahn, M.D.
P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing, MI 48909-7536

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

NEW LAW RECORDS NATIONAL GUARD DISCHARGE

A new law will help veterans keep track of important information they may need in the future for employment or to receive benefits.

Public Act 163 of 2008 (Senate Bill 752) requires the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to file the DD Form 214 in the home county of the National Guard member. This “discharge from active duty” form is a complete record that includes campaign awards, decorations, medals, citations, promotions, re-enlistment eligibility and other information. It is commonly used to obtain veterans benefits. The form will be accessible only to the veteran; it is not a public document.

Years after discharge, some veterans may not know the location of their form. Having an additional source of access to their DD Form 214 ensures that this information is always available.

RESOURCES

- More than 1,800 Michigan National Guard soldiers are currently deployed. Keep track of units and their locations at www.michigan.gov/dmva.
- The Military Family Relief Fund helps the families of Michigan’s citizen-soldiers in times of need. To apply for assistance or to donate to the Fund, visit www.michigan.gov/dmva.
- Access the one-stop shop for information on veterans benefits and assistance at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at www.va.gov, or call toll-free 1-800-827-1000.
- Check historical documents of interest to veterans and find links to other military research sites at www.archives.gov/veterans/research/.
- Stay up-to-date on homeland security issues at www.michigan.gov/homeland.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

AMERICA’S LIVING VETERANS

World War I.....	1
World War II.....	2,498,000
Korean War.....	2,400,000
Vietnam War	7,230,600
Gulf War	2,269,000

Department of Veterans Affairs 2008

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), of the 23 million veterans currently alive, nearly three of every four served during a war or an official period of hostility.

About a quarter of the nation’s population — approximately 70 million people — are potentially eligible for VA benefits and services because they are veterans, family members or survivors of veterans.



DC3: BRINGING DEFENSE AND HOMELAND SECURITY DOLLARS TO MICHIGAN

During World War II, Michigan was known as the Arsenal of Democracy. Senate-originated legislation enacted into law created the Defense Contract Coordination Center (DC3) to capitalize on our state’s manufacturing and high-tech expertise and help restore Michigan as a leader in the defense industry.

The center is aggressively working to maximize homeland security and defense business opportunities for Michigan companies, leading to new jobs and investments. In 2007, the DC3 secured more than \$315 million in contracts, with a goal to double that amount in 2008. Recently awarded contracts range from supplying combat boots to armored vehicles.

I am proud of the vital role Michigan businesses have in supporting and supplying our troops and anticipate our state will have an increasingly visible presence in the multi-billion-dollar defense industry.